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Sea Ice and Coloration of Ice and Snow; Plant Life; Animal Life; Physics of the Polar Seas; Meteorology; Magnetism; Aurora, and Tides; Aims and Objects of Modern Exploration.

A short quotation is given here as illustrative of the style of the book and of the interesting and edifying nature of its contents. After writing (pp. 190-1) of the Antarctic deep-sea deposits of globigerina ooze, red clay, and diatom ooze, Dr. Bruce continues:

"To the south of this belt or band of diatom ooze we have a continuous ring south of 60° S., which is a deep-sea deposit of blue mud. In the Weddell and Biscoe Seas we have a small patch in the blue mud region which seems to be a sort of mixture of blue mud and red clay, and which is associated with the area of deep water mapped out by the *Valdivia* and the *Scotia*. A special point of interest in this blue deposit is found on examining maps of deposits in different parts of the world, when it is seen that this deposit is always associated with continental lands. It occurs round the whole of the coasts of South and North America; round the coasts of Europe, Asia, and Africa. There is, in fact, no continental coast which is not bounded by blue mud. The natural inference, therefore, is that when we find blue mud surrounding an area of land about the South Pole that it is there in association with a great mass of continental land . . . The important feature to remember is the diatom ooze at the bottom of the Antarctic and subantarctic seas and the blue muds in the vicinity of all known Antarctic lands, indicating a greater extension of those lands and the existence of a great Antarctic Continent, further proof of which has already been given."

A charming and thoughtful work that will help many readers to a more intelligent appreciation of Polar exploration.

The Toll of the Arctic Seas. By Deltus M. Edwards. x and 449 pp., map and illustrations, appendix and index. Henry Holt & Company, New York, 1910. $2.50. 8½ x 6.

Mr. Edwards has collated here a large number of thrilling or tragical incidents connected with Arctic exploration, some of which have not been hitherto published. Many of his stories were gleaned from old accounts of the explorers themselves, from obsolete reports of Army and Navy inquiries and from private journals and manuscripts. The book is interesting as a chronicle of accidents and great catastrophes, part of the price the world has paid for its present wealth of knowledge of the Arctic. The incidents are not given in chronological order and the first great Arctic tragedy involving the death of Sir Hugh Willoughby and his comrades is referred to near the end of the book.

GENERAL

Geologen-Kalender. Begründet von Geh. Rat Prof. Dr. K. Keilhack. Herausgegeben unter Mitwirkung der Deutschen Geologischen Gesellschaft. Neunter Jahrgang für die Jahre 1911–1912. Bearbeitet von Dr. W. Quitzow. Leipzig: Max Weg, 1911. 516 and 52 pp. 4 marks. 6½ x 4½.

The Geologen-Kalender is a publication for geologists similar to the Geographen-Kalender for geographers. It is issued every two years. In the current edition it has been considerably expanded. It contains a directory of geologists (pp. 1-193); a list of the geological surveys of the world, with notes on their organization, personnel and publications, and with index maps of the geological maps of the majority of European countries (pp. 194-299); a list of university instructors of geology, mineralogy and allied sciences (pp. 299-332); a list of the geological and allied societies of the world (pp. 233-356); a note on the International Seismological Association (pp. 356-361); a note, with index map, on the International Geological Map of Europe (pp. 362-364); a list of European geological collections (pp. 364-468); besides various tables and notices of interest to the geologist. The value of this manual is illustrated by the fact that until the recent publication of U. S. G. S. *Bull.* 465, the only systematized information available concerning the state surveys of the United States, was, so far as the reviewer is aware, that to be found in the Geologen-Kalender.

W. L. G. J.

Wind und Wetter. Fünf Vorträge über die Grundlage und wichtigeren Aufgaben der Meteorologie. Von Prof. Dr. Leonard Weber. iv and 116 pp., illustrations and index. Verlag von B. G. Teubner, Leipzig, 1910. Mk. 1.25. 7 x 5.

Judging by the number of text-books of meteorology which have appeared in Germany during the last few years, German publishers must be very hospitably inclined towards such books. Moreover, several of these volumes have gone into second, or even third, editions, which is good evidence of the wide popular interest in the science abroad. In our own country, the situation is in both respects, unfortunately, very much less encouraging.

Dr. Weber's "Wind und Wetter," now in its second edition (the first was dated 1903), is based upon five lectures, originally delivered in a popular high school course in Kiel (1902). The book gives a clear and concise view of the larger relations of meteorology, and while it obviously cannot, within the limits of its 113 pages, go into details, the author has succeeded well in presenting his subject in an interesting and popular manner. Twenty pages are devoted to balloon and kite meteorology, and this chapter contains a few pages on the mechanics of kite flights. One of the best chapters is that on weather forecasting, from which we quote the following: "There is no absolute mathematical certainty, even in 24-hour forecasts, because of the number and the complexity of the possible combinations. Even when we use the utmost care in taking account of all the laws which hold for isobars, storm tracks and weather types; even when we read our instruments with the greatest accuracy and consult the most skilled weather prophets among shepherds and sailors, there still remains a certain part of the problem in which the art of 'weather talent' and routine, rather than exact analysis, must come into play." This is a good statement, especially for the 'general public.'

R. DeC. Ward.

L'Epoca delle Grandi Scoperte Geografiche Seconda edizione rinnovata ed accresciuta. By Carlo Errera. xxiv and 463 pp., maps and index. Ulrico Hoepli, Milano, 1910. L. 6.50. 7½ x 5,

The second edition of this important work has been revised and somewhat enlarged. It gives a connected account of the early voyages and discoveries and of the growth of geographical knowledge from the time of the Roman Empire through the medieval era and the great discoveries of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries down to the day of Magellan. It shows how the extension